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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2013

**CONSTRUCTION**  
 school to be demolished  
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**BUSINESS**  
 seaway eyeing shipping boost  
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**GREENPEACE**  
 amnesty for Ruzycki  
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**COMMUNITY**  
 port art show is a real blast  
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# INPORT NEWS

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For news updated daily see [www.inportnews.ca](http://www.inportnews.ca)

## MENTAL HEALTH

# Helping people overcome

GRANT LAFLECHE  
 QMI Agency Niagara

The day the doors opened 25 years ago, Heather Scott and her staff waited in their white coats, nervously watching the door. Who would be the first to arrive?

It was the start of a grand experiment. For as long as anyone remembered, Niagara residents with addiction issues had to cross the border and go to an American facility for treatment. There was simply no place to go in Ontario.

It was lucrative business for the American treatment firms. Ontario provincial health insurance was paying \$40 million a year to send some 3,500 patients to the U.S. for treatment.

See HEALTH, Page 2



GRANT LAFLECHE/QMI AGENCY NIAGARA  
 Heather Scott, NHS director of mental health and addictions and Dwayne Mountney, manager of residential treatment at the New Port Centre, reflect upon 25 years of addictions services in Port Colborne.

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# LOCAL NEWS

## FINANCE

# Port begins budget talks

MARYVANNE FIRTH  
Tribune Staff

PORT COLBORNE — "It's the season for budget deliberations.

Lakeside city councillors began chipping away at Port Colborne's 2014 budget Monday night, beginning the process with a staff-recommended 3.92% tax increase.

By the end of the meeting, with both additions and subtractions made, the increase sat at 4.45%.

But talks surrounding the city's budget have only

just begun, stressed Mayor Vance Badawey, who would like to see an increase closer to the rate of inflation, which is generally under 2%.

The budget moved upward as councillors added \$61,000 for transit, including Saturday service and extended hours, and \$99,000 for tree programs, including removal of dying trees and those impacted by the emerald ash borer, tree replacement and a partnership with residents to see dying trees on private property removed.

The tree issue has always

been important, Badawey said, but the November fatality — in which a woman was struck by a falling tree while driving her car down Fielden Ave. — has left it on everyone's minds.

"It impresses the importance of continuing our due diligence with the tree program," he said.

One of the biggest budget savings came from the city's economic development and tourism department.

After the departure of economic development officer Stephen Thompson several months ago, the position

has remained vacant. The role has since been split, with certain responsibilities being taken on by the mayor's office, existing planning and development staff and contracted staff.

"It has a positive impact on the budget because we're using existing resources," Badawey said. The changes mean a \$147,000 savings, he added.

The city intends to hire a new economic development officer in the spring to fill the altered role.

"Economic development works through my office

on a daily basis," Badawey said, adding the transition with the vacant position has been "seamless" due to the hard work of staff.

The city is also hoping to find about \$100,000 in savings by creating a self-sustaining business model for Sugarloaf Harbour Marina, which staff is expected to present some time in the new year, Badawey said.

Budget deliberations will continue on Jan. 6 at 5:30 p.m. in council chambers.

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VANCE BADAWEY

## HEALTH

# New centre offers addiction and recovery treatment

From Page 1

"In those days, American companies had offices in Niagara to do the assessments (of patients) and send them to the United States," said Scott, now the director of mental health and addictions for the Niagara Health System. "There were a lot of them there."

So to save money and treat Ontario residents closer to home, Queen's Park funded the establishment of 11 treatment centres in the province. The New Port Centre in Port Colborne was the 11th.

"It was actually a residen-

tial apartment building when we got here," said Scott, who in 1987 was tapped to be the director of the centre attached to the Port Colborne hospital. "In fact, the ground floor was still apartments when we opened."

Scott is a Niagara native, but was working in treatment centres in the United States. When the opportunity to apply her training at home came up, she jumped at the chance.

Still, when the centre opened in May 1988, she anxiously watched the front door.

"We were waiting in our white coats, wondering if any-

one would show up."

Many did. Many still do.

There was a team of five working with Scott 25 years ago and the facility had 15 beds. Today, with a team of 26 working with current facility manager Dwayne Mountney, there are 35 beds. Last year alone, 404 people were treated at the facility.

Scott says while the heart of the New Port Centre's mission remains the same — to help those with addictions improve their lives — how they treat patients is radically different.

When it first opened its doors, the patients who would stay for a 28-day treatment period were not permitted to bring any medications in with them, even if they had medication for a mental health problem, for example.

"The feeling then was that any medication was a crutch, so they were not allowed to bring them," Scott said. "But back then we have no idea of all about mental health issues and how they should be treated."

Mountney said like all Ontario treatment centres New Port used a one size fits all methodology. That has changed

significantly.

"We've learned that doesn't work and we've become more nimble in adapting to what best fits the needs of a particular person," he said. "We know what works for one person might not work for the next."

Even the rigid adherence to a 28-day treatment program has changed. Mountney said most patients reported they got the most out of the program after 18 days, and were ready to back home with ongoing outpatient support.

So now the centre operates on a three-week-treatment

schedule, he said.

And things continue to change. As the frequent link between mental health and addiction issues has become better known, the centre has begun working more closely with mental health facilities.

"It's easier now (that the centre is) part of the NHS," said Scott, who is working to integrate the treatment centre more closely with the mental health centre at the St. Catharines hospital.

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## ANIMALS

# Dodger, the missing dog, back home after being found eight km away

MARYVANNE FIRTH  
Welland Tribune

PORT COLBORNE — Dodger the dog is home.

Five hours after going missing from his owner's Port Colborne front yard Wednesday, the one-year-old German shep-

herd/musky mix was found eight kilometres away — in the yard of his owner's parents.

"We're just so relieved. It would have been a devastating Christmas without him here," said Ashley Shanahan, Dodger's owner.

The drama started just after

12:30 p.m. Wednesday when Ashley Shanahan, Dodger's owner, went to let the dog back into her Golf Course Rd. home.

Usually when she opens the door, Dodger is sitting there ready to come in. But on Wednesday, he was nowhere to be found.

Shanahan yelled his name, she whistled, and still Dodger made no appearance.

Hearing her panicked cries for the dog, Shanahan's neighbour offered to check his surveillance video to see if the dog, who was outside for only a short period of time, could be seen.

That's when they made a startling discovery.

It showed a Ford pickup truck leaving Shanahan's property right around the time the dog disappeared. She believes her dog was taken.

With each hour Dodger was missing, Shanahan's worry

grew.

But when her father John pulled into his driveway Wednesday night, he saw Dodger sitting there in the yard.

"He opened his car door and Dodger stuck his head in," Ashley Shanahan said.

# LOCAL NEWS

■ **GREENPEACE:** Arctic 30 likely to be freed and to avoid trial

## Amnesty for Paul

MARYANNE FIRTH  
Tribune Staff

PORT COLBORNE — When Paul Ruzicky's feet touch Canadian soil, that's when sister Puti Stirling will celebrate.

Until then, the family of the 48-year-old Port Colborne man and Greenpeace activist will remain cautiously optimistic that his return home is nearing.

Ruzicky was one of two Canadians arrested by Russian authorities Sept. 18 for taking part in a protest against Arctic oil drilling. They were detained and charged with hooliganism along with 26 other activists and two freelance journalists after boarding an oil platform in the Pechora Sea. The group was released the Arctic 30.

Ruzicky and Alexandre

Paul, 36, of Montreal, will likely be free and will avoid trial after Russia's Parliament approved an amnesty proposed by President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday.

In an e-mail to Stirling following the announcement, Ruzicky said he was "one step closer" to making his way home.

"This is almost over," Stirling said from her Port Colborne home.

"But until I see him in the Toronto airport, I'm not going to believe it," she said, not wanting to get her hopes up.

"We've been on this rollercoaster for 91 days now. This is the closest to the finish line we've been," she said.

"It's the first real light at the end of the tunnel."

Stirling said her family is "elated" with the news, but

"we want to be smart about it."

"I'm afraid to get happy about this," she said, as there have already been two instances in which she thought Ruzicky might be on his way home.

"I really hope the next call we get is that they're free and clear and at the airport."

Ruzicky told Stirling he would be meeting with lawyers and bureaucrats all day Wednesday and possibly Thursday to go over the fine print of legal documents required to get him home.

Ruzicky requires a transit visa to leave the country. As the Arctic 30 did not intend to enter Russia, they don't have the proper exit visas in place, Stirling said.

"It's quite a process to leave Russia without exit papers,"

she said.

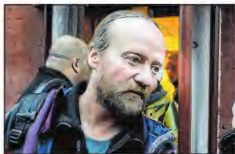
"It's a whole other world over there."

Stirling is uncertain how quickly the process could move along.

"It could happen in 24 hours or in 24 days," she said, adding Ruzicky intends to keep the family posted.

Ruzicky's supporters have been anxiously awaiting updates and when news of the amnesty approval broke early Wednesday morning, Stirling's inbox flooded with e-mails from people eager to see him home and to throw a party in his honour.

"He's had tremendous support," she said, adding she's received word from not only Ruzicky's friends and family, but also from strangers who simply "believe in what he's doing."



REUTERS

Greenpeace activist Paul Ruzicky of Port Colborne, one of the 30 people arrested over a Greenpeace protest at the Pirazlomnaya oil rig in the Pechora Sea, is pictured as he is released on bail from prison in St. Petersburg in this Nov. 22 handout photo by Greenpeace.

"Everywhere I go, people stop me (to ask about Ruzicky)... It's been an amazing journey that way."

Reuters reported the lower house of Parliament passed the amnesty, which Putin proposed to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the passage of Russia's post-Soviet constitution.

The amnesty would also apply to two members of the punk protest group Pussy Riot. The two-year sentences handed to Nadezhda Tolokonnikova and Maria Alyokhina were criticized in the West as excessive.

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■ **CELEBRATION:** Cities host kid-friendly events to ring in 2014

## New Year's Eve a family affair in Welland, Port

MARYANNE FIRTH  
Tribune Staff

WELLAND — New Year's Eve will be filled with big parties for even the smallest of south Niagara's residents.

Both Welland and Port Colborne are hosting family-friendly affairs on the afternoon of Dec. 31 to usher in 2014.

The Rose City's celebration,

hosted by the mayor's youth advisory council, runs from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at both the Welland Community Wellness Complex and Welland Main Arena.

The free festivities include games, crafts, treats, face painting, inflatables, cupcake decorating and a glow-in-the-dark family skate.

Mad Science will put on a

show in the arena's community room and children's duo Sunshine and Broccoli will perform in the complex theatre.

Wagon rides will also be offered along the canal. While the rides are free, pre-registration is required prior to Dec. 24 by calling 905-735-1700 ext. 4000.

The afternoon of fun will culminate with a fireworks

display along the canal at 5:50 p.m.

For a full listing of Welland's New Year's Eve activities, visit [www.welland.ca](http://www.welland.ca).

Port Colborne's free celebration runs from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. with a wide variety of activities at the Vale Health and Wellness Centre.

There will be free swimming from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., bouncers

and gym activities, live music and a Mad Science show, cookie decorating, face painting, games and movies, as well as public skating from 2 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The Port Colborne Pirates will host a mini hockey camp for ages four to eight from 2 p.m. to 2:45 p.m. and ages nine to 13 from 2:45 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. There is no cost to partici-

pate in the camp, but children are asked to bring their own equipment.

The event will conclude with a fireworks celebration behind the Vale Centre at 6 p.m.

For a full listing, visit [www.portcolborne.ca/page/NewYears\\_Eve](http://www.portcolborne.ca/page/NewYears_Eve).

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# IMPORT NEWS

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## ■ our view

## Support wine industry, but mind the costs

**A**t first blush, it doesn't seem like Earth-shattering news — Ontarians will soon be able to buy VQA wine at farmers' markets in the province alongside fruit wines.

Allowing citizens to buy wine at a farmers' market is what they call a no-brainer. It means greater market access for Niagara wines, which are part of an industry that already generates some \$3 billion in Ontario annually.

It also probably means more business for other vendors at the markets — all of which means more economic activity at the local level.

So the move, announced by the provincial Liberals Monday as part of a \$75-million wine strategy, is a good thing. Local wines already face enough barriers to getting into stores in Ontario, so anything that can improve market access is worth praising.

Exactly how the sale of wine at farmers' markets will be handled is scheduled to be worked out in the new year, but it's hard to see the downside of the idea.

Beyond the economic spin off, it also helps further dismantle the nanny-state purpose of the LCBO.

There is something inherently patronizing about the very existence of the LCBO, a government-run booze store that all but controls alcohol sales in Ontario.

Older readers will remember a time when adults could not go into a store and pick a bottle from the shelf. You had to hand a ticket to a government

employee, who then went to the back room where the booze was hidden, to get it for you.

Having bottles of wine and beer left in plain sight was considered by government bureaucrats as too much for our sensitive constitutions. Things have changed in that regard fortunately, but the LCBO still maintains a virtual monopoly on alcohol sales in Ontario.

By all means, sell alcohol. Regulate it. But limiting sales to a government-run store is just going too far. We are all grown up. We can manage it all on our own.

By allowing wine to be sold at farmers' markets, in whatever form those sales will take, Queen's Park is not just creating the circumstances for improved economic activity, but is saying we don't really need the LCBO.

It is that spirit, however, that our praise of the wine strategy is somewhat cautious.

The plan creates a new level of bureaucracy in the office of a Wine Secretariat, which will purportedly make the industry more competitive.

And all this building up of the industry isn't coming cheap. It costs \$75 million of taxpayer money at a time in which there isn't enough money for hospitals and schools.

We can easily think of several industries that employ more Canadians than the wine sector but don't receive that kind of taxpayer help.

Queen's Park has the right intentions, but it might be costing us too much.

— Grant LaFlèche

**P**eople don't like change.

I've spent a lot of years sitting in on various meetings regarding revitalization of communities and major developments.

What I've seen over this span is people's unwillingness to accept change and embrace the upgrades.

The downtown Fenwick revitalization project is a good example of how hard it is for people to accept change.

The village currently has cracked streets, a failing storm sewer system and unlevel sidewalks. It is

in need of some major upgrades. I attended an open house on Thursday evening where people from the community gathered to look at the 'almost final' plans for Fenwick. Though there was some good comments, it was hard to ignore the comments of it being "too busy" or "terrible".

The revitalization is beautifying an area that has a real opportunity to shine. It's a quaint, quiet, friendly community, that has a lot to offer. It's historic and it is a community people take pride in. After several visits to Fenwick it's not

hard to understand why people have pride in the community.

Infrastructure is important. Without it communities fall apart, get worn down and eventually it causes people to steer away from small communities.

By creating a downtown that is aesthetically pleasing it draws people in. People love to enjoy unique communities.

What I like about the revitalization is the plan to install the brick roads — like a cobblestone. I've been to communities that have the cobblestone roads and it is a great addition to the feel of an

'old town'.

Making it a more walkable community, with benches and plantation is also a great addition.

The revitalization is a \$4 million investment from Pelham, which shows the confidence that the town has in Fenwick.

Change is hard, yes. But sometimes it's necessary to keep a community viable and appealing to new residents and business.

I'm looking forward to seeing how this moves forward and the finished product. I see this as a huge positive for Fenwick.

mlissa.margelen@sunmedia.ca

## ■ readers' views

### TIME TO UPDATE THE TREATIES

Now that the deer hunt in Short Hills is over, things will be relatively quiet regarding aboriginal treaty rights, for awhile. The issue I have with these treaties is that they were signed more than 300 years ago to insure the aboriginal peoples could feed and support their families through hunting and fishing, on land that the (British) government had no interest in, as most of it was inaccessible or not considered suitable for agriculture. The treaties were signed by a government that had no idea of the magnitude of the area in question, or of the way that it would be settled and improved by European settlers in the future. The need to revisit these treaties has long since passed. They are out-dated, and no longer relevant in today's world. The need to hunt and fish for sustenance no longer exists, and the notion that this is done for ceremonial purposes doesn't cut it. Other segments of Canadian society have traditional and religious celebrations that do not require inconveniencing their neighbours or breaking Canadian laws. These treaties were signed by a government that has no

jurisdiction in Canada today. The British Crown is only a traditional figurehead, that only a few Canadians still adhere to, and has no standing in the day-to-day business of the country. When a client has an agreement with an agent, be it a lawyer, a real estate agent, a contractor, or any other client-agent agreement, and one of the parties leaves the mix, a new agreement has to be negotiated with the new partner. So I should be with the treaties between the Aboriginal people and the new government of Canada (circa 1967). The treaties have been invalid for 46 years and need to be updated to reflect modern society, and all Canadian citizens.

JIM BRAY

PORT COLBORNE

### GREAT PARTY

Our company recently held our Christmas party at Canabside Restaurant on West St. in Port Colborne. I would like to extend a huge thank you to the owners of this lovely establishment, Greg and Rosemarie Polsson. We had loads of good food,

great service, lovely ambience and right from the planning stages to the end of the evening our staff could not have asked for anything more. It was that good. We are thrilled to be able to have a restaurant of this calibre so close to home, and we recommend their establishment highly. I believe we all had a great time and all due to the meticulous attention to detail by Greg and Rosemarie.

BETTY KONC  
PORT COLBORNE

### THEY DON'T CARE

What is the point of printing a full-page ad about the wind turbines proposed for our neck of the woods, when it is a full accomplice and those responsible for this outrage could not care less about the wishes of the public, nor about the wildlife that will be affected, nor about the hideousness of the landscape. Give us a break.

PAT CUSACK

WAINFLEET

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## CRIME

## Tobacco smuggling ring busted

ALISON LANGLEY  
QMI Agency Niagara

NIAGARA FALLS — Police and border officials have dismantled what they are calling a major tobacco smuggling network with ties to Niagara.

The Hamilton/Niagara RCMP and Canada Border Services Agency announced this week that a number of people have been arrested in connection with a large contraband tobacco smuggling and trafficking operation allegedly responsible for bringing more than 73 tonnes of water pipe tobacco into Canada since 2010.

"Contraband tobacco is a threat to the security and health of Canadian citizens," said Rick Comerford, CBA spokesman.

"People need to be aware that if they purchase contraband tobacco, they are funding criminal activity."

A joint investigation was



MIKE DIBATTISTA/QMI AGENCY NIAGARA

A \$13 million project to widen the approach on the U.S. side of the Peace Bridge began last week, Aug. 7 2013. Phase one of the project is an important first step to alleviating traffic congestion on the bridge linking Fort Erie to Buffalo.

launched in 2011 after 1,440 kilograms of tobacco was seized at the Peace Bridge in Fort Erie in July 2001 followed in October by

a seizure of another 1,440 kilograms of tobacco at the Queenston-Lewiston Bridge.

As the investigation progressed, police said, a larger smuggling organization was uncovered.

Police said the volume of smuggled tobacco would have resulted in millions of dollars in unpaid duties and taxes, and huge profits for organized crime.

"The CBSA and the RCMP work side by side within a number of other joint forces operations targeting contraband," said RCMP Insp. Steve Martin.

"As a result, we have a common understanding of the capabilities, intentions, vulnerabilities and limitations of organized criminal networks and we apply that intelligence to disrupt them and their supply chains."

Nine people, including four residents of Hamilton and one from Calgary, face numerous charges.

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## HOLIDAY CHANGES IN WASTE COLLECTION

Garbage, recycling and Green Bin collection will be delayed by one day in the week following Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

### HOLIDAY GARBAGE EXEMPTIONS

In the week following Christmas (Dec. 26, 27, 28, 30, 31), residents may place double their regular weekly garbage limit to the curb on their collection day.

### CHRISTMAS TREE COLLECTION

- Saturday Jan. 11, 2014 ONLY
- Christmas trees must be at the curb by 7 a.m.
- Remove all ornaments and decorations
- Christmas trees wrapped in plastic or buried in snow will not be collected. No artificial trees.

Regular Waste Collection Day	Changed to:
Monday (Dec. 23)	No change
Tuesday (Dec. 24)	No change
Wednesday (Dec. 25)	Thursday (Dec. 26)
Thursday (Dec. 26)	Friday (Dec. 27)
Friday (Dec. 27)	Saturday (Dec. 28)
Monday (Dec. 30)	No Change
Tuesday (Dec. 31)	No Change
Wednesday (Jan. 1)	Thursday (Jan. 2)
Thursday (Jan. 2)	Friday (Jan. 3)
Friday (Jan. 3)	Saturday (Jan. 4)



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■ **CONSTRUCTION:** Proposed 58-unit subdivision planned for property

# Former school to be demolished

MARYANNE FIRTH  
Tribune Staff

WELLAND — The days are numbered for the former Welland South Public School building.

A demolition permit has been issued for the nearly 100-year-old schoolhouse on Broadway Ave. and plans are underway to transform the property.

Though still awaiting city approval, property owners intend to develop a 58-unit subdivision on the land including both townhouse

condominiums and apartments. A community centre is also slated to be built.

The property is zoned medium-density residential under the city's official plan, which permits between 50 and 72 units.

"Fifty-eight fits," said Niagara Falls resident Frank De Luca, who co-

owns the land alongside Leo Alta. "That's the right number."

The proposed self-contained subdivision, which is still unnamed, will include two new roadways with entrances off Broadway.

See SCHOOL, Page 7

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**SCHOOL**

## Old school to be demolished

From Page 6

Detailed designs and plans for the property are expected to be presented to city council in March.

"We've owned the property for 13 years, but the last four years have been the most fast-paced," De Luca said.

"The fires really pushed us into it."

The 20,000-square-foot school was twice the target of arson in recent years, with fires causing damage to the building in October 2011 and November 2012.

Readying the development has "been a long process," De Luca said, but "the city has been very helpful in getting us to this point."

While he's excited about the project, he admits he's "just a little emotional about the building."

"It has been with us for 13 years," he said.

Up until the arsons, plans had been to keep and renovate the original four-room schoolhouse built in 1915. There have been two additions to the building — one in 1950 and another in 1970.

Plans now are to include fourplex units on the property that mimic the schoolhouse layout.

De Luca expects demolition of the school, which closed in 1985, to begin early in the new year.

"Without anymore hitches, we will be hitting the first blocks in the first week of January," he said, adding it should take about two weeks to complete.

The bricks from the original schoolhouse will be preserved during the demolition process.

ess and reused, De Luca said. Offers for the solid dark-red brick have come in from as far as California, but no decision has been made on whether any will be sold.

While there is no cornerstone on the building, De Luca does have the brass plaque from when the schoolhouse was built. He hopes to incorporate it somehow on the property to pay homage to its history.

De Luca estimates construction could begin in about a year.

if all approvals are granted.

The intention is to have a majority of construction completed prior to the 2015 Pan Am Games.

There are three local builders interested in developing the property, as well as three from the Greater Toronto Area, De Luca said. The chosen builder will then take over the project, while working in partnership with De Luca and Ajta.

marianne.firth@sunmedia.ca



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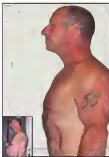
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# LOCAL NEWS

■ **BUSINESS:** Hoping for a strong December finish

## Seaway eyeing late-season shipping boost

**DON FRASER**  
(M) Agency Niagara

ST. CATHARINES — Mixed results for shipping and a rollout of massive investments dominated the St. Lawrence Seaway season this year.

"It's a pretty decent year in terms of both volume and the upkick that we've seen in business this fall," said Seaway spokesman Andrew Bogora.

He described a slow shipping start earlier this year driven by fewer orders for things like iron

ore. Since then, volumes have been bolstered by a later but robust grain harvest.

The Seaway is preparing for its winter closure, expected in two weeks.

Shippers are also in an end-of-season drive to bring a record Canadian grain crop to market.

"We are still optimistic that the month of December will bring us reasonably close to last year's in ... the final result" of shipping volume, Bogora said.

Meanwhile, St. Catharines-based

shipping firm Algoma Central Corp. showcased the first of its Chinese-built Algoma Equinox bulk carriers, which sailed through the Welland Canal this month.

The Equinox is the first of eight in that class, and part of \$500 million-plus of new ship orders by Algoma.

Orders for the Equinox vessels themselves are worth \$400 million, with two coastal vessels totalling a further \$100 million put into service by Algoma starting in 2010.

See SEAWAY, Page 11



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# LOCAL NEWS

## SEAWAY

### Seaway will close in about a week

From Page 10

Compared to older vessels, the Equinox ships drastically reduce emissions, use less fuel and have a larger freight-carrying capacity.

Algoma president and CEO Greg Wight tempers the enthusiasm by describing a Seaway season he said was "a bit disappointing." Wight said it was somewhat unexpected. After the downtown of 2008-10, business over the fol-

lowing two years bounced back.

"But we've seen a significant decrease (this year) in some of the commodities we've moved," he said.

"One of the few bright spots is that the water levels have come back up.

"And a big bright spot is the fantastic grain crop, and most of that impact will be felt next year," Bogora said private-sector vessel

investment by Seaway and shipping companies operating from the Great Lakes to the Gulf of St. Lawrence amounts to about \$1 billion in coming years.

The Canadian Seaway is also in the midst of rebuilding tie-up walls along the Welland Canal through a \$100-million investment over four years, part of \$400 million being invested over five years by the Seaway in asset

renewal.

"This level of investment testifies to the faith that our carriers have in the future of the seaway," Bogora said. "That ... is one of the strongest

indications for what the future might hold." As for business next year, "there aren't too many people at this stage making bold forecasts," Bogora said.

"We remain hopeful of

a continued uptick in our business. At this stage ... we're keeping a close eye on our customer base."

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■ **COMMUNITY:** Niagara artists' work at Arts Place Gallery

# Port art show is a real blast

MELISSA MANGELSEN  
InPort Staff

The Arts Place Gallery in Port  
Colborne has been supporting

the local arts for nearly 22 years,  
and has an exhibition on display

until Jan. 30 called Artists  
Blast.

The exhibition features  
past and present mem-  
bers in a gallery setting.

"Having art displayed  
in a gallery format is really

important. It's a good  
opportunity to stand back  
and look at your work. It's  
a different way to view it,  
rather than in your own  
cluttered studio," said ar-  
tist Diana Hnman.

Casual, relaxing, inspi-  
ration and inviting is the  
ambiance the Art Place  
Gallery is going for at its  
location on King St. It's a  
well-lit gallery built in a

former gas station.

Artist Joyce Honsberger  
has been with the gallery  
since it began in 1992. It  
started with an idea and  
quickly grew to 11 Niagara  
artists who took the leap of  
faith to form the original  
cooperative that launched  
Arts Place Gallery.

See ART, Page 13

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For asthma sufferers, education about their disease is paramount. Many patients likely believe their asthma is under control. If patients need to use their rescue inhaler more than three times a week, or have night time awakenings with shortness of breath or cough, their symptoms are not under control. Treatment for this may involve an increase in dose of their steroid inhaler. Some patients are concerned about increasing their steroid dose. There is little systemic absorption from steroid inhalers; the main side effect is thrush from deposition of the steroid in the mouth. Steroid inhalers should be used regularly as opposed to as needed for better control of the disease.

Although AeroChambers are not covered by insurance they are worth the cost (about \$45.00). It is difficult to coordinate the action of inhaling and spraying the metered dose inhaler. Children and the elderly can especially benefit from the use of an AeroChamber. Please come in to the pharmacy if you are an asthma sufferer for an explanation on how to use them.

Peak Flow meters are another device that severe asthma sufferers might benefit from. This is a device which helps to gauge if a patient's asthma is under control. COPD is typically a disease that affects patients who have smoked or been exposed to second hand smoke. COPD encompasses emphysema and chronic bronchitis. There is no curing of this disease but patients can slow the worsening of their symptoms.

The most important first step is to quit smoking. There is a new medication on the market called Champix which is helping much success, please come in and talk to a pharmacist if you are interested in learning about this medication.

COPD symptoms can also be controlled by proper use of inhalers. Typically patients with COPD will be on three different inhalers. The first is usually Ventolin to help with shortness of breath and coughing. The second will be a combination inhaler that contains a steroid and an ingredient to keep the airways open. The third inhaler is usually Spiriva. This inhaler if used regularly helps to slow the progression of the disease. Although patients may not notice much benefit from the combination inhaler and Spiriva, they should use them consistently and on a regular basis. Doing so will help to reduce flare ups and worsening of the disease.

COPD patients should continue as much exercise as they are able to tolerate, and to ask their doctor for a prescription for prophylactic antibiotics and steroids. Often patients can develop a chest infection while their doctor is away or over the weekend. If they can start the antibiotics as soon as possible it may help prevent hospitalizations.

Pharmacists can provide a great deal of education and advice for patients with COPD and asthma. Please come in and talk to us if you have any questions about COPD or COPD.

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## ■ ART

# Artists Blast in Port Colborne

**From Page 13**  
 "We've always tried to put the best in here using a variety of artists and mediums," said Honsberger. The gallery has paintings, sculptures, pottery, glass and jewelry - all for sale.

"We support our local artists and always want to

encourage them to continue with the arts," she said.

"It's great to look at your art with your peers and see what works and what doesn't."

Arts Place Gallery holds about seven shows each year, including an auction. After the Artists

Blast ends, the gallery will present an exhibition called Two Men and a Brush, featuring Niagara artists George Sanders and Bob Iwelle. The gallery is located at 714 King St.

melissa.margulies@summedia.ca  
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## NOTIFICATION

### Habitat Regulations for Protecting Species at Risk

Ontario is fortunate to have a wide variety of plants and animals. Over 200 of these species, however, are currently 'at risk'. One of the key threats to their survival is habitat loss.

Under the Endangered Species Act, 2007, the Government of Ontario has passed habitat regulations for Bogbean Buckmoth, Four-leaved Milkweed, Fowler's Toad, Laura's Gubtail, Queensnake and Rusty-patched Bumble Bee and an amendment to the existing habitat provision for Pale-bellied Frost Lichen. These provisions will help protect and recover these plants and animals. The regulations come into force on January 1, 2014.

Want to know more about habitat regulations or the Endangered Species Act?

Information on the regulations is available on the Environmental Registry of the Environmental Bill of Rights website at [ontario.ca/eb](http://ontario.ca/eb) (Registry #011-9021) and on the Species at Risk website at [ontario.ca/speciesatrisk](http://ontario.ca/speciesatrisk).

For alternative formats of this information, please e-mail: [sar.habitat@ontario.ca](mailto:sar.habitat@ontario.ca) or call toll-free at 1-800-667-1940.

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